Listing of Claims.

Claims 1-20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (previously cancelled).

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~Process~~ A method for the preparation of cells suitable for transplantation into a mammal, which cells are capable of forming amyloid deposits, said **method** ~~process~~ comprising contacting the cells *in vitro* with an inhibitor of amyloid deposit formation.

Claim 23 (currently amended): ~~Process~~ The method according to claim 22, wherein said inhibitor causes breakdown of amyloid deposits, the deposits having been formed by said cells prior to said contacting.

Claim 24 (currently amended): ~~Process~~ The method according to claim 22, ~~in which the~~ wherein said cells are cultured in the presence of the inhibitor.

Claim 25 (previously cancelled).

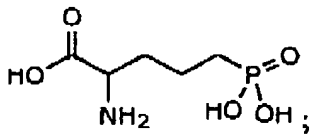
Claim 26 (previously cancelled).

Claim 27 (currently amended): ~~Process~~ The method according to claim 22, wherein ~~the inhibitor is~~ said inhibitor comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of

(i) 3-(3-hydroxy-1-propyl)amino-1-propanesulfonic acid

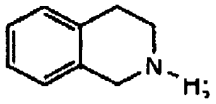
$HOCH_2CH_2CH_2NHCH_2CH_2CH_2SO_3H$;

(ii) DL-2-amino-5-phosphovaleric acid

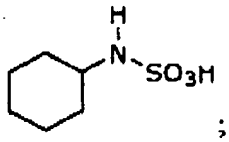


;

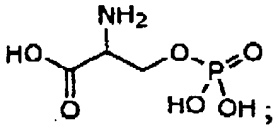
(iii) 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline



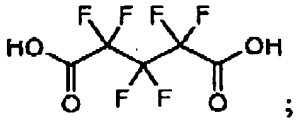
(iv) cyclohexylsulfamic acid



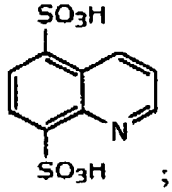
(v) *O*-phospho-L-serine



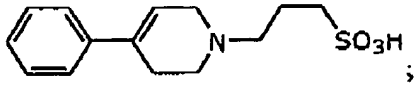
(vi) hexafluoroglutaric acid



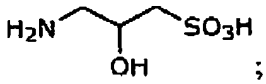
(vii) 8-methoxyquinoline-5-sulfonic acid



(viii) 4-phenyl-1-(3'-sulfopropyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine



(ix) 3-amino-2-hydroxy-1-propanesulfonic acid



;

(x) 3-dimethylamino-1-propanesulfonic acid

$Me_2NCH_2CH_2CH_2SO_3H$;

and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, acids, and salts ~~or a salt~~ thereof.

**Claim 28 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 29 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 30 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 31 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 32 (currently amended):** A culture medium or a culture medium pre-mix ~~which comprises an inhibitor or~~ comprising a compound as defined in claim 27.

**Claim 33 (original):** A culture of cells in which the culture medium is as defined in claim 32.

**Claim 34 (original):** A culture according to claim 33 in which the cells are islet cells.

**Claim 35 (currently amended):** *Ex vivo* cells prepared by ~~a process~~ the method according to claim 22.

**Claim 36 (currently amended):** *Ex vivo* cells according to claim 35, wherein said cells are in a preparation ~~that comprises an inhibitor or~~ comprising an inhibitor, wherein said inhibitor comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of

(i) 3-(3-hydroxy-1-propyl)amino-1-propanesulfonic acid;
(ii) DL-2-amino-5-phosphovaleric acid;
(iii) 1,2,3,4-tetrahydroisoquinoline;
(iv) cyclohexylsulfamic acid;
(v) *O*-phospho-L-serine;

(vi) hexafluoroglutaric acid;
(vii) 8-methoxyquinoline-5-sulfonic acid;
(viii) 4-phenyl-1-(3'-sulfopropyl)-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine;
(ix) 3-amino-2-hydroxy-1-propanesulfonic acid; ~~or~~
(x) 3-dimethylamino-1-propanesulfonic acid;
and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, acids, and salts ~~or a salt~~ thereof.

**Claim 37 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 38 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 39 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 40 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 41 (previously amended):** A pharmaceutical composition comprising a cell according to claim 35 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

**Claim 42 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 43 (currently amended):** A vessel for containing a culture of cells, ~~which~~ wherein said vessel is coated with ~~an inhibitor or~~ a compound as defined in ~~claim 2~~ claim 27.

**Claim 44 (previously amended):** A kit for culturing cells comprising a culture medium or culture medium pre-mix as defined in claim 32.

**Claim 45 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 46 (currently amended):** ~~Method~~ A method of identifying an inhibitor that can be used to prepare cells for transplantation in ~~a process~~ the method according to claim 22, comprising contacting a candidate substance with a mammalian cell and determining whether the candidate substance inhibits the formation of fibrils or causes the breakdown of fibrils, ~~(i) the inhibition of formation of fibrils or (ii) the breakdown of fibrils, indication~~ indicating that the substance is an inhibitor that can be used in said process.

**Claim 47 (previously amended):** ~~**Method**~~ **A method** of identifying an inhibitor that can be used to prepare cells for transplantation in ~~**a process**~~ **the method** according to claim 22, comprising contacting a candidate substance with a protein capable of forming fibrils, or with a fibril, and determining whether the substance inhibits the formation of the protein into a fibril, or whether the substance causes the breakdown of **fibrils** ~~**the fibril**~~, ~~**(i) inhibition of fibril formation or, (ii) the breakdown of fibrils,**~~ indicating that the substance can be used in said process.

**Claim 48 (previously cancelled).**

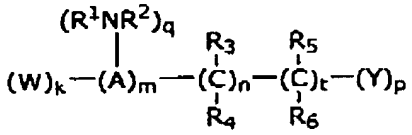
**Claim 49 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 50 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 51 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 52 (previously cancelled).**

**Claim 53 (new):** The method according to claim 22, wherein said inhibitor comprises a compound according to the formula



wherein

k, m, t, p and q are independently 0 or 1;

n is an integer from 0 to 3;

C is a carbon;

N is a nitrogen;

W is hydrogen or an anionic group at physiological pH;

Y is an anionic group at physiological pH;

$R^1$ and $R^2$ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, an anionic group at physiological pH, or $R^1$ and $R^2$, taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, may form an unsubstituted or substituted heterocycl having from 3 to 7 atoms in the heterocyclic ring;

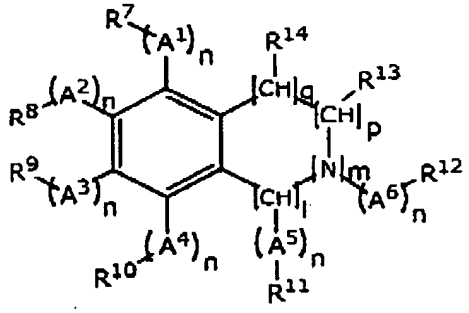
$R^3$ hydrogen, halogen, thiol or hydroxyl;

$R^4$, $R^5$, and $R^6$ are independently hydrogen or halogen; and

A is hydrogen or $C_1$ to $C_6$ alkyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, acids, and salts thereof.

**Claim 54 (new):** The method according to claim 22, wherein said inhibitor comprises a compound according to the formula



wherein

C is a carbon;

N is a nitrogen;

H is a hydrogen;

$A^1$, $A^2$, $A^3$, $A^4$, $A^5$ and $A^6$ are independently alkyl, O, S, or -NH;

m and n (for each individual A group) are independently 0 or 1;

p, q and l are independently 0, 1, or 2;

$R^7$, $R^8$, $R^9$, $R^{10}$, $R^{11}$, $R^{12}$ and each $R^{14}$ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alicyclyl, heterocyclyl or aryl, each $R^{13}$ is independently hydrogen, alkyl, alicyclyl, heterocycyl, aryl or an anionic group, and adjacent R groups may form an unsubstituted or substituted cyclic or heterocyclic ring;

and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, acids, and salts thereof.

**Claim 55 (new):** The method according to claim 22, wherein the cells are islet, liver, muscle, kidney, neuronal, or stem cells.

**Claim 56 (new):** The method according to claim 22, wherein the cells are human, primate, rodent, rabbit, ovine, porcine, feline, or canine cells.

**Claim 57 (new):** The method according to claim 22, wherein the amyloid deposits comprise islet amyloid polypeptide, Aβ peptide, prion protein, immunoglobulin light chain, amyloid A protein, transthyretin, cystatin, β2-microglobulin, apolipoprotein A-1, gelsolin, calcitonin, atrial natriuretic factor, lysozyme variants, insulin, or fibrinogen.

**Claim 58 (new):** The method according to claim 22, wherein the cells are islet cells and the deposits comprise islet amyloid polypeptide.

["Remarks/Arguments" on following page.]